

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Accompanying Continuation Application under 37 CFR 1.53:

Prior Application: H. WATANABE et al  
Serial No. 09/376,991  
Filed: August 19, 1999  
Group Art Unit: 2188  
Examiner: K. L. Ellis

For: STORAGE SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above application  
as follows.